Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace original paragraph [0006] with the following amended paragraph:

[0006] In U.S. Patent no. 6,333,031 and in *Activation of Erythropoietin Receptor Through a Novel Extracellular Binding Site,* Naranda, et al Endocrinology ~~19XX~~ 2002 143(6):2293-2302; *Activation of Erythropoietin Receptor in the Absence of Hormone by a Peptide That Binds to a Domain Different from the Hormone Binding Site,* Naranda, et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. 1999, 96(13):7569-74 are reported the existence of an extracellular binding site of the EPO receptor ("EPO-R") referred to as the "modulation domain." In the human EPO-R, the modulation domain corresponds to about amino acids 194-216 and has the amino acid sequence QRVEILEGRTECVLSNLRGRTRY (SEQ ID NO:1). Binding of a 23 amino acid peptide having the sequence SEQ ID NO:1 to the EPO-R modulating domain resulted in modulation of the activity of the EPO-R in the presence or absence of the ligand. The peptide, therefore, offers an auxiliary compound for use with EPO to enhance the activity of EPO and reduce the requirement for EPO to achieve analogous activity. The peptide can be readily synthesized efficiently and economically. However, the peptide is small and will be rapidly degraded in the blood. Also, it suffers from the inconvenience of requiring injection.

Please replace original paragraph [0008] with the following amended paragraph:

[0008] U.S. Patent no. 6,333,031 and in Activation of Erythropoietin Receptor Through a Novel Extracellular Binding Site, Naranda, et al Endocrinology ~~19XX~~ 2002 143(6):2293-2302; Activation of Erythropoietin Receptor in the Absence of Hormone by a Peptide That Binds to a Domain Different from the Hormone Binding Site, Naranda, et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. 1999, 96(13):7569-74, describe the modulation domain and SEQ ID NO:1. PCT/US02/064211 describes triazolopyrimidines for use as thrombin inhibitors.